

In re Patent Application of:

ARGOITIA ET AL

Serial No. **10/762,158**

Filed: **01/20/2004**

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A coating composition comprising:
a carrier; and
a plurality of shaped opaque covert flakes dispersed in the carrier, wherein each of the plurality of shaped opaque inorganic covert taggent flakes has a selected shape and a thickness less than 10 microns, and wherein a first plurality of the shaped opaque inorganic taggent flakes have a same predetermined shape.
2. (original) The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the shaped opaque covert flakes comprise multiple thin film layers.
3. (original) The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the shaped opaque inorganic covert taggent flakes has a thickness between about 0.5 micron and about 3 microns.
4. (currently amended) The coating composition of claim 1 further comprising a second plurality of shaped opaque flakes having a second selected shape, wherein the second plurality of shaped opaque inorganic taggent flakes have a same predetermined shape that is different from the shape of the first plurality of shaped opaque inorganic taggent flakes.
5. (original) The coating composition of claim 4 wherein the shaped opaque covert flakes comprise bright flakes.

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6. (original) The coating composition of claim 4 wherein the shaped opaque covert flakes have a grating pattern, the selected shape being visible at a first magnification and the grating pattern not being visible at the first magnification, wherein the grating pattern is visible at a second magnification, the second magnification being greater than the first magnification.

7. (original) The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the shaped opaque covert flakes include a grating pattern.

8. (original) The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the shaped opaque covert flakes include an elemental indicator.

9. (original) The coating composition of claim 8 wherein an optically active layer in the opaque covert flake comprises the elemental indicator.

10. (original) The coating composition of claim 9 wherein the optically active layer is one of a reflective layer, a spacer layer, and an absorber layer.

11. (original) The coating composition of claim 8 wherein the elemental indicator is in a non-optically active layer.

12. (original) The coating composition of claim 1 further comprising base pigment having a first elemental composition, wherein the shaped opaque covert flakes have a second elemental composition including an elemental indicator not found in the first elemental composition.

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13. (original) The coating composition of claim 12 wherein a ratio of base pigment to shaped opaque covert flakes is selected to provide a selected amount of the elemental indicator.

14. (original) The coating composition of claim 1 further comprising a base pigment having a first selected color, the base pigment being mixed with the shaped opaque covert flakes to provide a pigment mixture, wherein the shaped opaque covert flakes are bright flakes having a selected shape, and wherein the shaped opaque covert flakes comprise less than 5 weight % of the pigment mixture.

15. (original) The coating composition of claim 14 wherein the bright flakes comprise less than 1% of the pigment mixture.

16. (original) The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the shaped opaque covert flakes comprise bright flake.

17. (original) The coating composition of claim 1 further comprising base pigment having a selected color, the shaped opaque covert flakes having the selected color.

18. (original) The coating composition of claim 17 wherein the base pigment comprises mica-based pigment.

19. (original) The coating composition of claim 17 wherein the base pigment comprises color-shifting pigment.

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20. (original) The coating composition of claim 17 wherein the carrier is a varnish.

21. - 26. (cancelled)

27. (previously presented) The coating composition as defined in claim 1 wherein at least some of the flakes have a first patterned portion including a frame.